

2018

# College of Law Clinical Programs 2018

Nova Southeastern University

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## College of Law

### Clinical Programs

#### **Your clinical semester brings the study of law to life.**

Clinical education is an important part of the NSU College of Law experience. In fact, we think clinical education is so important that each and every student who meets the clinic and field placement criteria and pre-requisite classes has the opportunity to participate in one of our clinics or field placements during their final year of law school.

#### **Each opportunity is unique.**

Students receive quality training from experienced professors, practitioners and distinguished guest lecturers on campus. Students participate in individualized internships and externships where they receive in-depth, "hands on" experience in the field and one-on-one mentoring from a supervising attorney.

NSU College of Law offers excellent internship opportunities available in our in-house clinics directed by award winning faculty members. Part-time students may also enjoy the benefits of the clinical experience because we have developed a dynamic clinical program with their demanding schedules in mind.

[Law Library Resources for Clinics](#)

### Certified Legal Intern (CLI) Status

Students who participate in the Adults with Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities Law Clinic, the Children & Families Law Clinic or the Criminal Justice Field Placement Clinic may gain Certified Legal Intern (CLI) status from the Florida Supreme Court. It is extremely important for a law student to file their Florida Bar application early, preferably during the first year of law school, as they must receive an initial clearance letter from the Florida Board of Bar Examiners and be enrolled in a credit-bearing clinical program to be eligible for the CLI program.

A Certified Legal Intern (CLI) is a law student approved by the Florida Supreme Court to represent clients in court under the supervision of an approved licensed Florida attorney according to Rule 11 of the Florida Bar. Representing clients in court on behalf of a governmental agency or legal aid organization and speaking on the record in court under the supervision of a licensed attorney provides certified students with valuable real life experience.

Students who become certified must be enrolled in a credit bearing clinical program or eligible externship program at NSU Shepard Broad College of Law. Applications for Certification are submitted directly to the Florida Supreme Court by the Office of Clinical Programs. If you have any questions, please contact the Assistant Dean of Clinical Programs, [Nancy Kelly Sanguigni](#).

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## AIDD Law Clinic

The Adults with Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (AIDD) law clinic will introduce students to independent case management skills with a focus on client interviewing, legal analysis, drafting legal documents, motion practice, courtroom presentation, and professionalism. Students will actively advocate on behalf of clients with disabilities whose legal rights have been usurped. The clinic will simultaneously educate students while protecting disabled client's rights. Students will learn the procedural, practical and ethical elements that arise as a result of discrimination in the areas of employment, education, government services, private business accommodations and housing, guardian advocacy, and guardianship counseling. Students will provide legal counseling and representation to assist clients in gaining and /or maintaining public benefits.

## Clinic Prerequisites

- All required first-year classes and Professional Responsibility

## Faculty

- [Timothy Arcaro](#)
- [Olga M. Torres](#), AIDD Clinical Fellow
  - [AIDD Law Clinic Advisory Board](#)
  - Susan Hofstetter  
The School Board of Broward County, FL  
Ft Lauderdale, FL
  - Felicia Jordan  
Disability Rights Florida  
Hollywood, FL
  - Michelle Kenney  
GAPS Legal, PLLC  
Sunrise, FL
  - Ed O'Sheehan  
Shutts & Bowen LLP  
Fort Lauderdale, FL
  - Eloisa Roses Ramos  
Guardianship Programs at Barry University  
Miami Shores, FL
  - Audra Simovitch  
Law Office of Audra Simovitch, PA  
Boca Raton, FL
  - Tim Arcaro  
NSU Shepard Broad College of Law  
Davie, FL

- Olga Torres  
NSU Shepard Broad College of Law  
Davie, FL

- **AIDD Roundtable and Conference**

- Held each spring, the AIDD Roundtable and Conference provides an opportunity for the community to gather with renowned judges, legal professionals, advocates, and representatives for persons with special needs to explore best practices and assess community interests while focusing on making a positive impact on the community of Adults with Intellectual Developmental Disabilities.

## Children and Families Law Clinic

The Children and Families Clinic will introduce students to independent case management skills with a focus on client interviewing, legal analysis, drafting legal documents, motion practice, courtroom presentation, and professionalism. The Children and Families Law Clinic focuses on the legal needs of economically disadvantaged individuals. Family law constitutes one of the primary components of civil practice, particularly for practitioners in small firms. Key areas include custody and divorce, paternity, dependency, representation of teenagers, and economic issues. The Clinic formats are at the in-house clinic, or at a legal aid or governmental agency that provides legal assistance to children and families, or as externs at private law firms. The Clinic simultaneously educates students on -the procedural, practical and ethical elements that arise as a result of these legal issues in live client matters.

## Clinic Prerequisites

- Family Law; Evidence; Professional Responsibility; and one litigation workshop

## Faculty

- [Brion Blackwelder](#)

## Children and Families Clinic Success



The success of the NSU Children and Families Clinic is a collaborative effort resulting in a truly meaningful reunification of parent and child in an international abduction case.

Six 2018 3L students—Manuel Arrieta (certified legal intern), Mariam Butt, Harshdeep Sandhu, Vivian Arenas, Golbarg Gina Riahi, and Nicholas Ashby — under the direction of Professor Brion Blackwelder and Professor Timothy Arcaro, successfully represented a father seeking the return of his ten-year-old daughter in an international child abduction case in Broward County, Florida. The Clinic accepted this case as a pro bono referral from the U.S. State Department Office of Children’s Legal Issues, which is the designated central authority for purposes of *The Hague Convention on*



### *Civil Aspects of International Child Abduction.*

The client, a citizen of the Dominican Republic, sent his child to the United States during the summer of 2017 for a three-month visit, but the child was never returned to him, in violation of a Dominican court order and international law. The client subsequently moved to Spain. The team was able to obtain an order granting a return petition, which reunified the minor child with her father. See photo insert.

Circuit Court Judge John Patrick Contini, assigned to the case, was impressed by the level of sophistication NSU Law students demonstrated with this complex matter and the professionalism Manuel demonstrated in the courtroom.

## **Dispute Resolution Clinic**

Each clinical semester begins with intensive classes taught on-campus which may include evenings and weekend days.

The legal profession increasingly relies on dispute resolution. The Dispute Resolution Clinic provides student interns with ample opportunity to mediate and engage in other dispute resolution processes while learning dispute resolution options and improving communication skills. Students mediate or arbitrate cases that may include diversionary cases for juveniles arrested for misdemeanors; restitution mediation for victims and offenders; County Court mediation; community dispute matters; and court-annexed arbitration.

### **Clinic Prerequisites**

- Professional Responsibility and one workshop

### **Faculty**

- [Fran Tetunic](#)

## **Berger Entrepreneur Law Clinic**

The Berger Entrepreneur Law Clinic will educate and train to provide transactional representation for entrepreneurs, innovators and startup businesses. Students will offer early-stage transactional legal advice and representation to entry-level entrepreneurs, innovators, and start-up businesses. The clinic will simultaneously educate students while providing direct clinical or field placement representation on matters such as entity selection and formation, contract drafting, intellectual property protection, financing, and regulatory and compliance matters (including employment, licensing, and other state and local matters). Students will also develop the skills and knowledge to facilitate workshops, outreach and community training to educate and encourage entrepreneurship and creative business development, playing an especially important role in underserved and economically disadvantaged communities.

### **Clinic Prerequisites**

- All required first year classes and Professional Responsibility

## Faculty

- [Steven Kass](#)

This clinic is supported by the generous donation of NSU Trustee Mitchell Berger and Sharon Kegerreis Berger, both of whom serve on the NSU Law Board of Governors. The Sharon and Mitchell W. Berger Entrepreneur Law Clinic will enable NSU to provide direct legal service to nonprofit organizations, NSU students, and researchers associated with the new NSU Center for Collaborative Research (CCR), as well as innovators in technology, life sciences, and in the creative communities.

In addition to direct legal services, the clinic, in partnership with other NSU colleges, will serve to extend science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields for NSU students who are inventing and innovating as well as STEM education for law students working in fields such as intellectual property, data security and technology. The clinic will also facilitate workshops, outreach and community training to educate and encourage entrepreneurship and creative business development, playing an especially important role in underserved and economically disadvantaged communities.

## Civil Field Placement Clinic

This clinic provides students with the opportunity to explore career interests and work closely with and be mentored by experienced practicing lawyers. Students receive intensive classroom training on skills and substance designed to provide specialized instruction on different areas of law as well as litigation and transactional skills. Students then perform on-site legal work under the supervision of practicing lawyers in private or non-profit law offices, governmental and administrative agencies, public interest organizations, or corporate legal departments which specialize in the practice of civil law. It helps students understand the role of the civil lawyer in the context of their upcoming placement. Students focus on civil litigation and/or transactional practice. Students will gain experience in lawyering skills, legal process and different substantive areas of law. Field placements may include: Corporate and Business Practice; Environmental; Human Rights; Immigration; Intellectual Property; International Law; Real Estate and Land Use; Personal Injury; and Sports and Entertainment.

## Clinic Prerequisites

- Business Entities; Evidence; and Professional Responsibility.
- Additional prerequisites apply to field placements in specific practice areas:
  - **Corporate and Business Practice, Intellectual Property, Sports & Entertainment:** Business Entities; Professional Responsibility; one transactional drafting workshop or Civil Pre-Trial Practice.
  - **Real Estate, Land Use, Environmental:** Evidence; Professional Responsibility; one land use, development or environmental course; and one workshop.
  - **International Law, Immigration, Human Rights:** Professional Responsibility; one international law course; and one workshop.
  - **Personal Injury Litigation:** Torts; Evidence; Professional Responsibility; Civil Pre-Trial Practice; and Trial Advocacy.

## Faculty

- [Roma Perez](#)

### Consumer Bankruptcy Field Placement Clinic

Students enrolled in the Consumer Bankruptcy Field Placement Clinic will represent actual clients in federal bankruptcy proceedings, as permitted by the Florida Limited Practice Act and the Rules of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Florida. The classroom component will examine the legal, social and ethical dimensions of bankruptcy law practice; and include instruction in the necessary legal skills and knowledge involved in federal bankruptcy law practice, such as client interviewing, legal analysis, drafting legal documents, arguing motions, professional responsibility, and various practice issues such as the choice of relief under state law or the Bankruptcy Code, relief from the automatic stay, objections to discharge and dischargeability, and confirmation of a chapter 13 plan.

#### Clinic Prerequisites

- Bankruptcy Law; Evidence; and Professional Responsibility
- Bankruptcy Workshop is recommended

## Faculty

- [Ishaq Kundawala](#)

### Consumer Protection Internship Clinic

Students develop lawyering skills needed for the investigation and resolution of consumer disputes. Students will examine the regulation of unfair and deceptive trade practices under the common law, the Federal Trade Commission Act, administrative regulations and decisions, policy statements, and the Florida Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act. Students are placed at the Broward County Consumer Affairs Office under the supervision of the Clinic Director and the Broward County Consumer Affairs attorney.

#### Clinic Prerequisites

- Required first year classes

## Faculty

- [Michael Flynn](#)

### Criminal Justice Field Placement Clinic

Each clinical semester begins with intensive classes taught on-campus which may include evenings and weekend days.

The Criminal Justice Field Placement Clinic provides students the opportunity to intern full-time in a prosecutor or public defender office supervised by practicing lawyers handling real issues arising from the criminal justice system. Students engage with criminal policy and procedural issues,

enhance their research and writing skills, learn practical aspects of trial preparation, witness preparation, and ethical issues specific to criminal law while participating in actual trials, hearings or depositions. Students are authorized as Certified Legal Interns (CLIs) during this field placement.

### **Clinic Prerequisites**

- Criminal Law; Criminal Procedure; Evidence; Professional Responsibility; and Trial Advocacy
- Initial clearance letter from the Florida Board of Bar Examiners is required

### **Faculty**

- [Megan Chaney](#)
- [Mark Dobson](#)

### **Judicial Field Placement**

This clinic contains an external placement offering students an opportunity to serve as research clerks to state trial and appellate court judges, federal magistrates, or federal court judges. Through coursework, students will learn the operation of U.S. courts, the goals and pressures of the judicial system, the function of juries, judicial powers and methods, and the judiciary's role in law reform.

### **Clinic Prerequisites**

- 28 Credits

### **Faculty**

- [Heather Baxter](#)